

Get to
know the

i-codes

This is the fifth in a series of publications exploring the differences between the Uniform and International Codes (I-Codes). Topics covered in the series include means of egress, building uses, heights and areas, types of construction, fire-resistance-rated assemblies, accessibility, structural provisions, and the residential and mechanical codes. Additional topics may be added in 2004.

Introducing the IMC

New I-Codes in 2004

The 2003 editions of the International Building, Residential, Mechanical and Fire Codes (I-Codes) will replace the Uniform Codes this summer.* DPD expects the I-Codes to take effect in Seattle in late summer 2004.

You may use the I-Codes before Seattle formally adopts them, but should call (206) 684-8850 for a pre-submittal conference before proceeding with design. You can choose to use either the I-Codes or the Uniform Codes during the 60-day period after the effective date.

The Seattle amendments to the I-Codes will be available by the effective date from DPD's Public Resource Center, 20th floor, Seattle Municipal Tower, (206) 684-8467.

Questions? Call DPD technical support line at (206) 684-4630, 1-4:15 p.m., M-F.

Purchasing Codes

- WA Assn. of Building Officials (360) 586-6725, www.wabo.org
- International Code Council (800) 284-4406, www.iccsafe.org

Code Trainings

- WA Assn. of Building Officials (360) 586-6725, www.wabo.org
- International Code Council (800) 284-4406, www.iccsafe.org
- American Inst. of Architects - Seattle (206) 448-4938 www.aiaseattle.org
- Structural Engineers Assn. of WA (206) 682-6026, www.seaw.org
- Building Industry Assn. of WA (360) 352-7800, www.biaaw.com
- Master Builders Assn. of King and Snohomish Counties (425) 451-7920 www.mba-ks.com

Overview of New Mechanical Code

With the adoption of the International Codes, the state has given us five new mechanical codes.

- The International Mechanical Code (IMC) will apply to most mechanical systems.
- The International Fuel Gas Code will apply to fuel-gas equipment and piping, in addition to provisions of the IMC.
- Liquefied petroleum gas (lpg) installations will be governed by two standards of the National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 58 (Storage and Handling of Liquefied Petroleum Gases) and ANSI Z223.1/NFPA 54 (National Fuel Gas Code). The Seattle Fire Code also has provisions governing the use of lpg.
- The International Residential Code has its own mechanical provisions that will apply to one- and two-family residences and townhouses.



IMC provisions for commercial kitchen hoods negates the need for some current Seattle amendments.

In the past, Seattle has incorporated the State Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Code (VIAQ) into the Seattle Mechanical Code. We are proposing to delete those provisions from the 2003 Seattle Code, and refer to the VIAQ instead.

Many of the more significant changes between the IMC and the Uniform Mechanical Code are in format and organization, rather than in substantive provisions. For example, Chapter 5, "Exhaust Systems," is organized around use categories. Provisions from the Fire Code governing exhaust systems also appear in the IMC. There are some substantive changes in the provisions for commercial kitchen hoods, which are allowing DPD to propose deleting some of the current Seattle amendments.



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Visit DPD's new
Technical Codes website:
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